

Message Text

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OREP EG

SUBJECT: CODEL FRELINGHUYSEN: CALL ON FAHMY

SUMMARY: FM FAHMY RECEIVED CONGRESSMAN FRELINGHUYSEN AND AIDE JOHN CHESTER FEB 10 FOR 45-MINUTE DISCUSSION ME AND USG/GOE BILATERAL ISSUES. AMBASSADOR TOOK GROUP. CONGRESSMAN FELT MEETING USEFUL AND DISCUSSION LIVELY. FAHMY WELCOMED QUESTIONS AND COMMENTED FREELY ON THOSE RAISED. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGRESSMAN OPENED DISCUSSION BY ASKING IF FM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR PEACE. FAHMY RESPONDED WITH EXPOSITION HIS VIEW US POLICY SINCE 1967. HE ASSERTED GOE HAD FOR SEVEN YEARS ACCEPTED EVERY PEACE PROPOSAL PUT FORTH BY USG, BUT NO FORWARD MOVEMENT HAD EVER RESULTED. CONSEQUENCE HAD BEEN SERIOUS LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN MOTIVES AND STAYING POWER USG, TO POINT THAT FAHMY HAD FELT COMPELLED TELL PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER IN OCTOBER, 1973, THAT IN ALL FRANKNESS HE MUST SAY THAT EGYPT HAD LOST CONFIDENCE IN USG. HOWEVER, SINCE THEN, OWING TO EFFORTS PRESIDENT NIXON AND THE SECRETARY FOR WHOM EGYPT HAS HIGHEST RESPECT AND ESTEEM, USG/GOE COOPERATION HAS REACHED SUCH EXTRAORDINARY BREADTH THAT "NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE IT." FM AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR'S

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COMMENT THIS COOPERATION GREATEST IN HISTORY OF OUR

BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION FROM THE CONGRESSMAN ON GOE VIEW OF TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY ASPECT OF PEACE SETTLEMENT, FM STRONGLY EMPHASIZED GOE NOT PREPARED GIVE UP ANY TERRITORY WHATSOEVER. ASSERTING PROBLEM IS ONE BASICALLY OF TERRITORIAL OCCUPATION BY FORCE, HE MADE POINT THAT LOVE OF INDIVIDUAL EGYPTIAN FOR LAND OF EGYPT MAKES SUCH SURRENDER INCONCEIVABLE. MRS. MEIR MAY SAY, FOR AMERICAN PR PURPOSES, THAT SHE WANTS TO GO SHOPPING IN CAIRO, BUT IF SHE WERE TO DO SO, "THE PEOPLE WOULD KILL HER,"SINCE SHE SYMBOLIZES OCCUPATION EGYPTIAN LAND. AMERICA, ON THE OTHER HAND, IN DIFFERENT POSITION DESPITE IDENTIFICATION WITH ISRAEL, AS EVIDENCED BY FACT AMERICANS, UNLIKE EAST GERMANS, DID NOT LEAVE EGYPT IN OCTOBER, 1973 (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THEY KNEW THEY WERE IN NO DANGER).

3. COMMENTING ON CONGRESSMAN'S QUESTION ABOUT PROGRESS SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT, FAHMY FIRST DISCUSSED EGYPTIAN/ ISRAELI PRISONER EXCHANGE, ASSERTING MINDEF AHMAD ISMAIL AND TOLD HIM THAT MORNING KNOWN NUMBER EGYPTIAN POW'S IN IDF HANDS IS UP TO 89, SOME IT NOW TURNS OUT DATING FROM BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE. ISRAEL, HE INSISTED, IS HOLDING THESE POW'S ILLEGALLY AND IN VIOLATION SIX-POINT CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. ON SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT PROPER, HE SAID EGYPT EXERTING ENERGETIC EFFORTS, AND INDICATED HE OPTIMISTIC.

4. CONGRESSMAN TURNED CONVERSATION TO LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO. FM SAID EMBARGO NOT ARAB BLACKMAIL, BUT DIRECT RESULT ISRAELI OCCUPATION. HE STRESSED EMBARGO AND RISING PRICE OF OIL ARE SEPARATE ISSUES. ON LATTER POINT, HE SAID EGYPT NOT LARGE ENOUGH PRODUCER TO HAVE EFFECT ON WORLD PRICES, THEN REMARKED ON DISPARITY, PRIOR RECENT PRICE JUMPS, BETWEEN COST OF PRODUCTION AND PROFITS ACCRUING DOWNSTREAM.

5. ON GENERAL QUESTION OF PRICES AND INFLATION, FM REMARKED PRICE OF BREAD IN EGYPT HAD NOT CHANGED IN
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50 YEARS; IF IT DID, THERE WOULD BE REVOLUTION. GOE, THEREFORE, MUST TAKE UP SLACK WITH HARD CURRENCY SUBSIDIES. IN FACT, INFLATION HITTING EGYPT HARD ON ALL FRONTS-- FOOD, RAW MATERIALS SUCH AS COPPER FROM ONE AFRICAN COUNTRY (ZAMBIA, PRESUMABLY).

6. ON LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO, FAHMY AFFIRMED EGYPT ENDEAVORING TO GET POSITIVE RESULTS.

7. COMMENT: WE ARE STILL TRYING ARRANGE MEETING WITH SADAT WHO IS CURRENTLY CONFERRING WITH SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMEIRI IN GIANCLIZ NEAR ALEXANDRIA. PRESIDENCY SENT WORD YESTERDAY SADAT WOULD SEE CODEL AFTER RPT AFTER NUMEIRI TALKS. WE POINTED OUT CODEL LEAVES TOMORROW MORNING, HENCE TODAY ONLY DATE AVAILABLE. FOREIGN MINISTRY (OMAR SIRRI) PROMISED GET IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENCY AGAIN TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE ARRANGED.
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